

Fall 2006



# MONTANA DNRC Conversation



Featured profile:

Trust Land's Archaeologist  
Patrick Rennie

Moving forward...

An update on St. Mary's project

On the road with the Governor...

Highlights from Range Tour

Jack Stults retires...

Water Resources says farewell

Special insert...

Annual awards for employees

## St. Mary Canal rehab progresses

by Paul Azevedo

The Department of Natural Resources continues to work with the Lt. Governor's St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group to find a workable solution to rehabilitate the aging St. Mary Diversion Facilities. The Working Group meets in a different community along the Hi-Line on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Through the combined efforts of the Working Group, DNRC and Montana's congressional delegation, \$9.0 million in federal funds were secured for the project in FY06. These funds will be used to construct a new county road bridge over the St. Mary River, address environmental concerns on the Blackfeet Reservation associated with operation of the diversion system, and continue with required engineering studies. State and local funds committed to the project include \$900,000 in Resource Development Grant Program funds, \$500,000 in Treasure State Endowment Funds, over \$372,000 of in-kind contributions from DNRC and over \$126,000 of in-kind contributions from Working Group members. The State Legislature also committed \$10 million in bonding

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello DNRC Staff,

While the days remain warm, there's a feel of fall in the air! Summer has, indeed, been active with fires, field work, staff changes, and continued service to the public. The effort by so many DNRC employees has been tremendous. The extra hours, dedication, and perseverance that all of you have shown is really incredible. I continue to be impressed with the teamwork and sense of humor that you all demonstrate under sometimes challenging situations.

As we look to the fall, we are preparing for legislation. More is demanded of natural resource managers, and we are all looking at ways that we can address policy issues with efficiency and effectiveness. In the Water Resources Division, we are considering legislation regarding groundwater and surface water connectivity, water permit exemptions, and the need for more technical assistance. We will also be hiring a new Division Administrator for water this fall. In the Trust Lands Division, we are looking at weed control, landbanking, and funding issues for legislative packages. In Forestry, we are proposing strategies for dealing with fire in the wildland/urban interface as well as other fire statutes. One of our most important legislative priorities is to increase our development of GIS capability and coordination. Addressing emerging needs and issues is an on-going job at DNRC!

In the fall, I hope to also have some follow-up discussions on the three topics that floated to the top from the roundtables last winter and spring – communication, information technology, and integration.

Again, my thanks to you all for your important efforts in helping to manage Montana's natural resources!



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## Diggin' up dirt — Archaeologist Rennie's summer project

Most folks don't spend much time digging in the dirt like we used to as kids. At that time, we were looking for things like old pocket knives, dolls, a penny, or anything that we



Picture: Patrick Rennie

**Bison kill site excavation in Judith Basin county.**

might find interesting. As adults, our time involved in this kind of activity is limited to our gardens or flowers and only when we can fit it in. Few, if any of us, ever get the chance to dig in the dirt in our jobs. There is one exception to that within DNRC.

Patrick Rennie spends the better part of his year digging in the dirt both literally and figuratively, looking for obscure items of little or no interest to most of us. But to him, they are like hidden treasures that tell a story about the past. Rennie is an Archaeologist, also called a Cultural Resource Specialist, working for the Trust Lands Management Division. So it makes sense that he should dig in the dirt and enjoy it. The question most frequently asked, "What need does the Trust Lands Management Division have for an Archaeologist?"

To Rennie, it's a pretty straight forward answer. "Most of my work involves review of project proposals on state trust lands, field inspection and drafting reports of findings to be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). I as-

sist the DNRC and other state land managing agencies with Montana Antiquities Act compliance (i.e., identifying significant cultural and paleontologic resources on state trust land that may be disturbed as a result of a proposed development.) Then I help identify ways, when feasible, to avoid or mitigate physical impacts to those resources." All state land management agencies must comply with this law, according to Rennie. The Montana State Antiquities Act (SAA) requires each

state property managing agency to develop reasonable procedures for the identification of significant cultural and fossil resources on land/property each agency is responsible for. It is also intended to make land/property managing agencies responsible for protecting and preserving these resources when feasible to do so.

To date, some of Rennie's research undertakings have involved excavation of tipi rings, prehistoric Indian campsites, and prehistoric Indian bison kill/butchering sites. The purpose for the excavation work was to recover scientific data that would otherwise be destroyed or badly disturbed as a result of some proposed development, or as a result of severe erosion. Cultural resources, however, involve more than the artifacts left behind by past Native American occupants of the region. They include all tangible products of human behavior older than 50 years.

A fifth-generation Montanan, Rennie was raised on a ranch northeast of Wilsall. He spent hundreds of childhood hours wandering around the north-end of the Crazy

Mountains in search of arrowheads. Which, in turn, lead to an academic and eventual professional career in archaeology.

In addition to digging up dirt, Rennie spends most of his time reviewing proposals for potentially ground disturbing projects on state lands, and subsequently, providing recommendations to the project decision maker as to what actions the state land managing agency should follow to be in compliance with the SAA. These recommendations are largely based on procedural rules adopted by the DNRC for implementing the mandates of the SAA.

"As a one-person shop I can only complete field inspection of about 25 to 35 projects a year. An approximately equal number of proposed projects are inspected by archaeological consulting firms. I submit copies of the consulting archaeologist's report to the SHPO as part of DNRC's SAA compliance," Rennie explains. "Because most state land has never been inventoried by a professional archaeologist, the only way we can know if significant cultural or fossil resources exist within a proposed project area is for me, or another qualified individual, to inspect the area before a project is permitted."

When asked about the most interesting piece of archeological work he has been associated with during his 12 years with DNRC, Rennie is quick to answer. "There are two specific sites that were very interesting. The first was a prehistoric Native American campsite on state trust land near the Boulder River that had been used by three distinctive, archaeologically defined cultures over a span of 3,000 radiocarbon years.

*Continued on next page...*

## 13th annual Governor's Range Tour was a smash hit

The 2006 13th Annual Governor's Range Tour was a resounding success! This year's event was held September 12 - 13 in Conrad. The Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC) along with the Pondera, Toole, Glacier and Liberty County conservation districts and DNRC were the hosts of this year's tour.

The tour is an annual event, which rotates around the state. The two-day event features field tours to view rangeland management practices installed by ranchers and to recognize landowners that are excelling in their rangeland management activities. The tour is an opportunity for landowners, agency personnel and folks interested in agricultural topics to discuss rangeland issues and share experiences and expertise.

This year's tour was full of stops and events in three separate coun-

ties. The tours included visits to: The Wright Property which is currently in a conservation easement with the Montana Land Reliance; The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch which is owned by the Boone & Crockett Club. Tour attendants were able to learn about the history of the ranch as well as the current operations including integrated wildlife and livestock grazing, weed management and hunting operations; The historic Graham Ranch to discuss how the new owners are managing for weeds and riparian health; a saline seep site visit and

presentation from Montana Salinity Control Association; The Fretheim brothers operation to discuss the integrated weed management strategies; The Revolution Ranch to view

show cattle as well as its involvement in the Undaunted Stewardship Program and rangeland monitoring; And, a stop on the

Blackfeet Reservation to view a solar pumping system and a discussion with the Blackfeet extension agent about the rangeland inventory being conducted on tribal lands.

The tour was attended by people from across the state.



Picture: Ross Campbell

Governor's tour attendees view solar power pumping station

### Diggin' up DIRT

The site exhibited stratified soil and archaeological deposits analogous to the cross-section of a layer cake. The cultural remains of the earliest occupants of the site are separated by 4-5 inches dirt from the artifacts of the next earliest and another 4-5 inches of dirt separates the artifacts of the most current (600-800 radiocarbon years old) occupants of the site from the artifacts of the second oldest. This unusually rich site produced an abundance of stone tools and waste materials, heavily processed animal bone and heating/cooking features."

In August of 2006, Rennie and other staff of the DNRC, staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, and Beaverhead County officials investigated human remains discovered on state land near Bannack. The

investigation was driven by DNRC's requirement to comply with the State Burial Law. What was discovered, and ultimately fully exposed through excavation, was the skeletal remains of an adult male as well as a Winchester rifle, binoculars, keys, hunting knives and a whetstone. Based on the kinds of artifacts and other evidence associated with the skeletal remains, it was assumed that the event probably represented a hunter who died of natural causes sometime between 1950 and 1970. A missing persons investigation conducted by the Beaverhead County Coroner and a small brass license plate tag attached to a key ring, revealed the identity of the individual as

a 62 year old Dillon resident who went hunting on November 8th of 1950 and never returned.

"As interesting as it was to uncover a skeleton associated with an old saddle ring carbine, it was even more satisfying to bring closure for the surviving friends and relatives of this missing person." All in a day's work for a dedicated DNRC employee.



Picture: Patrick Rennie

Tipi ring excavation in Broadwater County

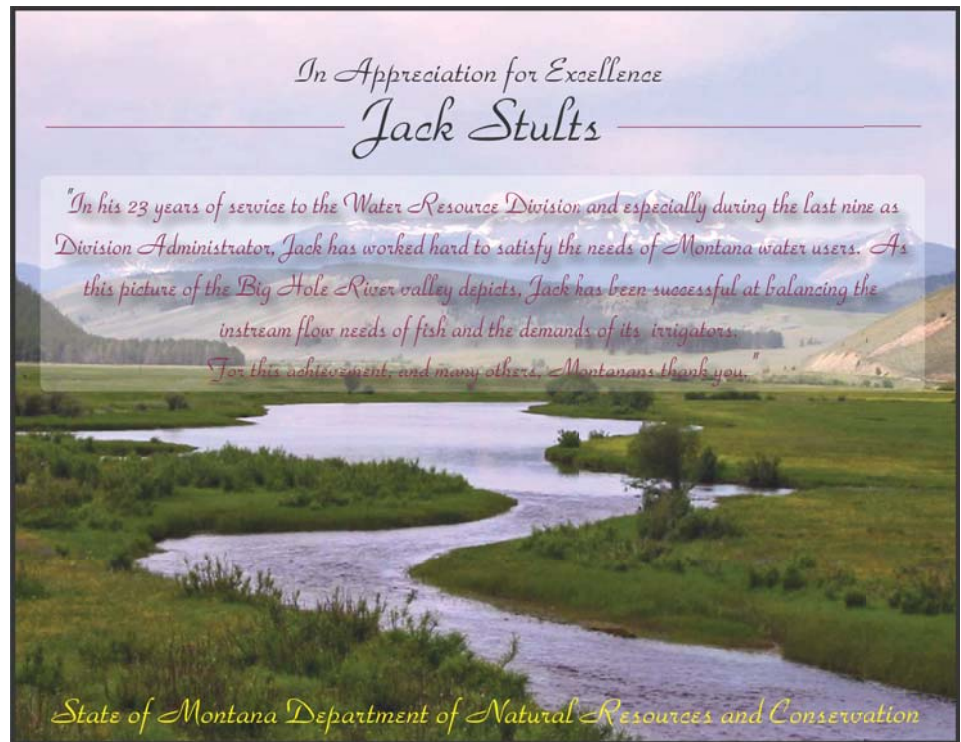
## Helena YWCA takes its hat off to Nancy Hughes

Nancy Hughes, Board Treasurer for the Helena YWCA has been filling some pretty big shoes lately.

Last spring, the YWCA lost it's Executive Director, and Hughes has stepped in to take the lead. She has contributed countless hours to the YWCA, cleaning rooms, and hiring locals to repair facilities, in addition to her regular duties.

Hughes is actively involved in fundraising for the Y; she is the pulse behind the Pink Tea fund raiser, and also works to raise funds for the Allegro Dance Company, where her daughter dances.

Hughes lives with her husband Tom in Helena, and has one daughter, Kara, who is a shophomore at Helena High. Hughes has worked for for the DNRC Water Resources Division for 25 years.



## Water Resources says goodbye to Division administrator

After 23 years of state service, Jack Stults, Water Resources Division Administrator, retired in July.

In appreciation for his public

stewardship, he was presented with this plaque.

Stults served nine years as Division Administrator and he will be missed.

## St. Mary Canal rehab...

authority to be used as a match to federal funds once construction is initiated.

The Working Group was also successful in their efforts to have the "St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and Milk River Project Act of 2006" introduced in both the House and Senate. The Bill was co-sponsored in the Senate by Senators Conrad Burns and Max Baucus. Representative Denny Rehberg sponsored it in the House. As introduced, the legislation authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to rehabilitate the St. Mary Diversion System

and address associated issues of the Blackfeet and Fort Belknap Tribes, and the Milk River Basin.

After a competitive selection process DNRC contracted with the engineering firm of Thomas Dean & Hoskins (TD&H) in Great Falls, MT to provide engineering services to the state and Working Group. Work completed to date includes the installation of six slope inclinometers to monitor movement of the side slopes at the St. Mary River Siphon crossing, initiation of a topographic survey along the canal route, and completion of a Preliminary engineering report which

developed appraisal-level cost estimates for several rehabilitation alternatives. Upcoming work will include the installation of four slope inclinometers to monitor movement of the side slopes at the Halls Coulee Siphon crossing. DNRC has also entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Blackfeet Tribe to study the feasibility of generating hydropower at the concrete drop structures along the canal route.



Visit DNRC's website  
[www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov)

### DIVISION LIASONS

CSD • Janel Favero  
CARD • Pam Smith  
Forestry • Kate Kronen  
Oil & Gas • Terri Perrigo  
RWRCC • Bob Levitan  
WRD • Cindy Forgey

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Acting Editor:  
Dan Bushnell  
Layout & Design  
Janel Favero  
Photography  
(as noted)

### Editorial Board

Ann Bauchman  
Dan Bushnell  
Rick Bush

## 2006 Special awards

### Director's Awards Oil and Gas Leasing Members of the Trust Land Division Minerals Management Team

For the team's work related to significantly increased levels of oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production activity.

Marc Aberg	ELO
Bobbie Jo Coughlin	Helena
Julie David	Helena
Randy Dirkson	NELO
Dan Dobler	Helena
Steve Dobson	CLO
Erick Eneboe	CLO
Monte Mason	Helena
Hoyt Richards	NELO
Wanda Walks	Helena

### CARD Division State Revolving Fund Finance Program Team

For providing Montana's communities with financing for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Larry Bloxsom	CARD
Bob Fischer	CARD
Diana Hoy	CARD
Anna Miller	CARD
John Patrick	CSD
Pam Smith	CARD
Carrie Villa	CSD
Janice Yearry	CARD

### Centralized Services

#### Administrator's Award

Joyce Naehar	Fiscal
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#### Special Appreciation

Janel Favero	ITB
Bruce Swick	Procurement
Jeff Williams	Procurement

### Conservation & Resource Development

#### Administrator's Awards

Diana Hoy	Loan & Finance
Janice Yearry	Loan & Finance

### Forestry

#### Certificate of Appreciation

Angela Farr
Kelley Gundale

#### Trust Land Management

##### Administrator's Award

Jon Hayes	SWLO
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##### Area Manager's Award

Butch Kroll	CLO
Bruce McMaster	NWLO
Greg Poncin	NWLO

##### Unit Manager's Award

Harold Gemmell, Libby	NWLO
Dale Peters, Plains	NWLO
Kalispell Unit Timber Staff	NWLO

Brent Kallendar

Pete Seigmund

Mark Slaten

##### TLMD Specialist of the Year

Jeff Bollman	SLO
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##### Forester of the Year

Bob Storer	SWLO
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##### Paragon of Performance

Chris Pileski	ELO
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##### Staff Support Award

Wanemah Hulett	NWLO
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##### Outstanding Service Forestry

##### Contributions Award

Debbie Byrd	NWLO
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##### Teamwork Award

Swan Unit

##### Certificates of Appreciation

Margaret Beck	NWLO
Mike Clark	NWLO
Paul Engelman	FMB, Missoula
Pete Evans	NWLO
Rick Komenda	NWLO
Elsbeth Pevear	NWLO
Kim Read	NWLO
Dave Ring	NWLO
Nicole Stickney	NWLO
Robert Traina	NWLO

### Water Resources

#### Administrator's Awards:

Charlie Atkins

#### HB 22 Hotline Group:

Linda Angeloni

Lindsay Arthur

Carol Brown  
Jacob Davis  
Mary Guokas  
Lana Hedlund  
John Hoeglund  
Zach Marshall  
Matt Murphy  
Rita Nason  
Jay Smith  
Myles VanHemelryck  
Arne Wick

#### Certificates of Appreciation:

Dolores Eustice  
Martha Hodder  
Mike McLane  
John Peterson  
Dirk Roberts  
Jamie Scow

### Water Rights Bureau

#### Database Team

David Coey,  
Brad Erickson  
Jim Gilman  
Kim Overcast

#### Regional Manager Awards:

##### Billings RO:

Tim Lewis  
Bob Morehead  
Louis Plaggemeyer  
Dave Roberts  
Chris Smith

##### Bozeman RO:

Porter Dassenko  
Jan Mack  
Tracy McCreery  
Debi Pierce  
Kerri Strasheim  
Willy Williams

##### Glasgow RO:

Denise Biggar  
Craig Karge  
Ann Kulczyk  
Pam Weinmeister

##### Havre RO:

Dixie Brough  
Lynn Hester  
Jay Johnson  
Terri Peterson  
Callie Ronning

**Helena RO:**

Kathy Arndt  
Eric Chase  
Patti Miller  
Terry Scow

**Kalispell RO:**

James Albrecht  
Wes McAlpin  
Kathy Olsen  
Rich Russell

**Lewistown RO:**

Millie Bowman  
Kim Foucher  
James Heffner  
Diane Lutz  
Doug Mann  
Sherry Silberhorn  
Sterling Sundheim

**Missoula RO:**

Jim Nave  
Jerry Reddig  
Patrick Ryan  
Jeff Schmalenberg  
Larry Schock  
Kathleen Schubert  
Tim Skop  
Cynthia Spethman

**2006 DNRC employee longevity awards****Centralized Services**

Kristine Hardman 20 years  
Carol Loomis 10 years  
Mark Phares 5 years  
Tricia Schiltz 5 years

**Conservation & Resource****Development**

Larry Bloxsom 20 years  
Billie Deutscher 5 years  
Rick Duncan 10 years  
Bob Fischer 25 years  
Diana Hoy 25 years  
Pat Riley 25 years  
John Sanders 25 years  
Linda Stangland 15 years

**Forestry**

David Bauer 5 years  
Robert Ethridge 20 years  
Ann Evans 5 years  
Elaine Husbey 5 years  
John Justin 10 years  
Linda Robinson 15 years

**Oil and Gas**

Richard Jacobson 25 years  
Terri Perrigo 20 years  
Thomas Richmond 25 years

**Reserved Water Rights****Compact Commission**

Joan Specking 15 years

**Trust Land Management**

Marc Aberg 20 years  
Gavin Anderson 15 years  
Lisa Axline 15 years  
Charles Barone 5 years  
Margaret Beck 25 years

Craig Biggart 5 years  
Gerald Buhre 20 years  
William Buamgartner 15 years  
James Burgoyne 5 years  
Daniel Cassidy 20 years  
Jeff Dobb 5 years  
Dan Dobler 5 years  
Erik Eneboe 10 years  
Paul Engleman 5 years  
Shane Feightner 5 years  
Norman Fortunate 20 years  
David Hamilton 5 years  
Lee Hahnkamp 5 years  
Fred Holmes 30 years  
Jeanne Holmgren 25 years  
John Huston 5 years  
Mickey Ivory 5 years  
Karen Jorgenson 5 years  
Harold Kenelty 5 years  
Eugene Kolwicz 25 years  
Rick Komenda 25 years  
Butch Kroll 10 years  
Darrell Kurk 25 years  
Mark Lennon 30 years  
Steve Lorch 5 years  
Jane Markland 25 years  
Mike Meyer 15 years  
Calvin Minemyer 15 years  
Paul Moore 25 years  
Sharon Moore 25 years  
Craig Nelson 10 years  
Eric Norris 25 years  
Michael O'Herron 5 years  
Chris Pileski 10 years  
James Price 10 years  
James Pris 5 years  
Greg Poncin 20 years  
Dave Poukish 10 years  
Robert Radcliffe 5 years  
Hoyt Richards 10 years  
John Smith 20 years

Bailey Stephen 10 years  
Steve Teigen 10 years  
Terry Thorpe 10 years  
Doug Turman 25 years  
James Wallace 25 years  
Jan Wheeler 15 years  
William Wood 20 years

**Water Resources Administration:**

Jesse Aber 15 years  
David Adair 15 years  
Jim Albrecht 5 years  
Dave Amman 15 years  
Jim Beck 25 years  
Dixie Brough 25 years  
Dave Coey 5 years  
Marv Cross 25 years  
Cindy Forgey 25 years  
Regina Fullerton 25 years  
William Fullerton 30 years  
Nancy Hughes 25 years  
Keith Kerbel 30 years  
Rob Kingery 15 years  
Timothy Kuehn 20 years  
Patty Miller 25 years  
Richard Moy 30 years  
Windy Pennington 5 years  
John Peterson 5 years  
Yvonne Paddock 20 years  
Susan Russell 15 years  
Kevin Smith 10 years  
Terry Voeller 15 years

If you would like a copy of this special edition, it will be posted along with this newsletter on DNRC's website.